

An Introduction to Medical Cannabis in Minnesota



The Facts

Medical cannabis was approved for use by qualifying Minnesota patients starting on July 1, 2015. Unlike many other states that allow medical cannabis, Minnesota limits the ways in which medical cannabis can be used. For example, only cannabis extracts can be used, as opposed to smoking the raw plant material or growing your own plants. Approved forms of medical cannabis include: concentrated oils for vaporization (gentle heating and inhalation), tinctures for consumption, and capsules/pills.

Who Is Able to Use Medical Cannabis?

By law, only certain conditions currently qualify for treatment with medical cannabis in Minnesota:

1. **In the setting of cancer:**
 - a. Severe or chronic pain
 - b. Nausea or severe vomiting
 - c. Cachexia or severe wasting
2. **Seizures, including those characteristic of epilepsy**
3. **Terminal illness, with a probable life expectancy of one year or less, with associated:**
 - a. Severe or chronic pain
 - b. Nausea or severe vomiting
 - c. Cachexia or severe wasting
4. **Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)**
5. **Glaucoma**
6. **Severe muscle spasms, such as those associated with multiple sclerosis (MS)**
7. **Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)**
8. **Crohn's disease**
9. **Tourette's syndrome**

How Can You Register?

For persons with a qualifying medical condition, the first step is to see your Minnesota doctor or licensed health-care provider to receive a certification, then submit the certification Department of Health. The Commissioner of Health will then enroll you in the registry and provide verification by email. You can then get medications from one of our patient care centers in Minnesota. Minnesota has a very helpful website with more details:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/topics/cannabis/> or call

Is There a Fee?

Registrants will contribute a \$250 annual fee to participate in the program, which can be reduced to \$50 for patients with financial need.

Who Can Pick Up the Medicine?

Registered patients, parents, or designated caregivers can retrieve and administer the medication. In the case of incapacitated patients or children, the Department of Health can approve and register a designated caregiver. When you arrive to the patient center, we will check ID, and registered persons can pick up the medications.

Be Safe & Sensible

When using any sort of medicine that could have effects on your mental clarity, it is best to take great caution before driving or performing other complex tasks that could be dangerous.

“Start Low and Go Slow” when it comes to how much medicine you take, and see how the medicine affects you. Especially at first, dose your medications in a safe place with responsible adults present. Talk to your doctor and your dispensary pharmacist about questions.

When in doubt—ASK.